

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An orally administrable pharmaceutical composition comprising an alginate matrix consisting of a water-soluble alginate salt and a complex salt of alginic acid, a macrolide, and an inorganic salt ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inorganic salt is capable of donating a proton and has a pK_a value in water of 4.0 to 9.0.

Claim 2. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble alginate salt is an alkali metal salt of an alginate.

Claim 3. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the complex salt of alginic acid is sodium-calcium alginate.

Claim 4. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the macrolide is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, roxithromycin, azithromycin, josamycin, telithromycin, clarithromycin and tylosin.

Claim 5. (original) A composition according to claim 4 wherein the macrolide is clarithromycin.

Claim 6. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the inorganic salt has a pK_a value of 5.0 to 8.0.

Claim 7. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the inorganic salt is an alkali metal or earth-alkaline dihydrogenphosphate or hydrogensulfate.

Claim 8. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of inorganic salt : macrolide is from 1:2 to 1:100 on a weight basis.

Claim 9. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet for once daily administration.

Claim 10. (currently amended) Process for preparing a once daily orally administrable formulation of a macrolide by mixing the macrolide with a water-soluble alginate salt, a complex salt of alginic acid, and an inorganic salt, wherein the inorganic salt ~~that~~ has a pK_a value in water of 4.0 to 9.0 and ~~that is capable to donate~~ of donating a proton.